

# THE RIO NEWS.

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VOL. XII.

RIO DE JANEIRO, AUGUST 24TH, 1885

NUMBER 24

## OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGATION.—157, Rua das Laranjeiras.  
THOMAS J. JARVIS,  
Minister.  
BRITISH LEGATION.—No. 74, Marquês d'Abrantes.  
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BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL.—No. 8, Travessa de D. Manoel. GEORGE THORNE RICKETTS,  
Consul General.

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N. B.—All notices should be sent to the Clerk.

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ALBERT ALLEN, Clerk.  
135 A, Rua das Laranjeiras.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—No. 15, Travessa da Barreira. Services in Portuguese at 11 o'clock, a. m., and 7 o'clock, p. m., every Sunday; and at 7 o'clock p. m., every Thursday.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—Lago do Catete. English services: Sunday School 10 a. m., preaching 11:20 a. m. Sundays; prayer-meeting 7:30 p. m. Fridays. Portuguese services: Sunday School 6:30 p. m., preaching 7:30 p. m. Sundays; prayer-meeting 7:30 p. m. Wednesdays.  
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## TRAVELLER'S DIRECTORY

### RAILWAYS.

**DOM PEDRO II.—Through Express:** Upward, leaves Rio at 8 a. m.; arriving at Barra Junction at 12:15 p. m. Entre Rios (central line) 9:28 a. m., Lafayette (Quero) 9:50 p. m. Porto Novo branch from Barra Junction 11:23 a. m., Cachoeira (S. Paulo branch) 11:45 a. m., São Paulo (S. P. & R. Rio R. R.) 6 p. m. Downward leaves São Paulo 6 a. m., Lafayette 7:30 a. m., Porto Novo 12:40 p. m., arriving at Barra Junction and Rio 6:55 p. m. Connects with Valença line at Desengano; Rio das Flores line at Commercio; União Mineira line at Serapiquí; Oeste de Minas (S. João d'El Rey) line at São Leopoldina; line at Porto Novo; and S. Paulo and Rio de Janeiro line at Cachoeira.

**Limited Express:** Upward, leaves Rio at 6 a. m.; arriving at Barra at 9:05 a. m.; Entre Rios 12:55 p. m.; Porto Novo 5:30 p. m. Cachoeira 6:00 p. m. Downward leaves Cachoeira at 6:40 a. m.; Porto Novo 6:30 a. m.; Entre Rios 10:58 a. m.; arriving at Barra at 14 p. m. and at Rio at 5:30 p. m.

**Mixed Trains:** Leave Rio at 8:30 a. m., and 3 p. m., the first going to Entre Rios and the second to Barra do Piraty.

**CANTAGALLO R. R.—Leaves** Niterói by (Sund) Annul 7:15 a. m., arriving at Nova Friburgo 12:05. Cordeiro 1 hour per tramway from Cantagallo 2:42 and Macuco 3:48 p. m. Return train leaves Macuco 8:30, Cordeiro 9:48 and Nova Friburgo 12:25 p. m., arriving at Niterói by 1:58 p. m. A ferry boat runs between Rio and Santa Anna, connecting with trains.

**CORCOVADO R. R.—Trains** leave the Station at Cosme Velho, Laranjeiras, at 5:30, 7, 8:35, 10:15, 11:45, a. m. and 1:15, 2:45, 4:15 and 5:45 p. m. on Sundays and holidays; and at 6:30 and 10 a. m. and 5:15 p. m. on week-days.

**PETROPOLIS STEAMERS AND R. R.—Steamers** leave Trapique Mau at 4 p. m. week days and 7 a. m. Sundays and holidays. Returning, trains leave Petropolis at 7:30 a. m. week days, and 4 p. m. Sundays and holidays.

## LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, &c

BRITISH SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY.—Rua do Ouvidor, No. 30, 1st floor.  
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BIBLIOTHECA FLUMINENSE.—No. 62, Rua do Ouvidor.  
MUSEU NACIONAL.—Praça da Aclamação, cor. Rua da Constituição.  
GAZETE PORTUGUEZA DE LEITURA.—No. 19, Rua dos Beneficentes.

### Medical Directory

Dr. Custodio dos Santos, Surgeon and Physician. Residence, Rua do Haddock Lobo, No. 79. Office Rua de Rosário, No. 125, from 1 to 3 p. m.  
Dr. Alexandre Colza—Surgeon and Physician—Office, Rua Príncipe de Marq No. 22. From 1 to 3 p. m. Residence, Rua de S. Francisco Xavier No. 47.  
Dr. W. J. Fairbairn; M. D. Edm. Surgeon and Physician. Office: Rua d'Almeida, No. 42, from 11 to 1 p. m. and 1 to 1:30 p. m. Residence: Rua D. Caleta, Botafogo, Med. Director of Equitable Life Ins. Co. of N. York.

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# THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY  
for the mail packets of the 5th, 15th and 25th  
of the month.

A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the commercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock quotations and sales, a table of freights and charters, a summary of the daily coffee reports from the Associação Commercial, and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, AUGUST 24th, 1885.

At a meeting of the Saraiva cabinet on the evening of the 14th it was resolved to resign, as the small majority obtained on the emancipation project, which was due to conservative support, did not warrant a belief that it could command a majority of votes in the Chamber when this conservative support should be withdrawn. Another reason was unquestionably that arising from the amendment made to the project at the last moment, which took all discretionary power out of the premier's hands in regard to the 5% surtax, but this was not announced. The resignation was promptly accepted by the Emperor, who, instead of asking the retiring premier to name his successor, called in the presidents of the two Chambers for consultation. After some delay the Visconde de Paranaguá was invited on the 18th to organize a cabinet, which he failed to accomplish. On the 19th, after again consulting the presidents of the two Chambers, His Majesty decided to call in the Conservatives and invited Barão de Cotegipe to organize a cabinet. The charge was promptly accepted and on the next day the official announcement was made of the following appointments:

Senator BARÃO DE COTEGIPE: Premier and minister of foreign affairs;  
Senator BARÃO DE RAMORÉ: Minister of empire;  
Senator JOAQUIM DELPHINO RIBEIRO DA LUZ: Minister of justice;  
Deputy FRANCISCO BELISARIO SOARES DE SOUZA: Minister of finance;  
Deputy ALFREDO RODRIGUES FERNANDES CHAVES: Minister of marine;  
Senator JOÃO JOSÉ DE OLIVEIRA JUNQUEIRA: Minister of war;  
Deputy ANTONIO DA SILVA PRADO: Minister of agriculture, commerce and public works.

The new cabinet is composed of men of acknowledged ability and experience, and if successful in the elections which must now be held, and if substantially supported by the Emperor, there are some good reasons for expecting a change for the better. The premier has already declared himself in favor of a more decided policy regarding the settlement of the Argentine frontier question, and his assumption of the portfolio of foreign affairs, instead of that of finance, which he held in the Caxias cabinet, implies that he means to carry it out. As delays are clearly prejudicial to Brazil in this matter, and as the Argentines

have no reasonable claim to the territory in dispute, a vigorous policy on the part of the new government will not fail to receive a hearty support. The new minister of finance is a planter, a relative of the conservative chief of Rio de Janeiro, and a representative of the ultra slaveholding interests of the country. His capacities for the financial administration of the country are as yet unknown, but there is little reason for a belief that he will introduce any new line of policy. He was one of the syndicate who undertook to control the foreign coffee market some two years ago, and who paid dearly for the experience. The new minister of agriculture is one of the most progressive planters of São Paulo and is a warm friend of a more liberal immigration policy. Unhappily, however, he is equally friendly to the converse policy of retaining slavery as long as possible and indemnifying planters to the last penny. As a whole the cabinet is highly respectable for ability, but unpromising so far as the question of abolition is concerned. It will carry out no great reforms unless driven to it by an irresistible popular movement. The new ministers are to be presented to the Emperor on Sunday and will then meet the Chambers on Monday.

THE reimposition of import duties by the Pernambuco provincial authorities again raises the questions of two years ago, as to the right of levying such taxes and the authority of the national government to suppress them. It was then decided that the provincial import taxes were unconstitutional and could not be continued. There were many complaints made at the time that the provinces could not meet their administrative expenditures without some such source of revenue, and as the justice of these complaints was so clear the government obtained legislative authorization for the imposition of an additional 10% on the general import taxes for the special relief of the provinces. Recently, however, the provincial assembly of Pernambuco has resurrected the abuse by imposing a tax of 3% on imports, and that, too, notwithstanding the protests of the press, the commercial association, and the business classes in general. The proceeds of this tax are estimated at \$800,000, which sum must be advanced by importers and then wrung from the people by proportionately increased prices. In reply to an inquiry the late prime minister stated that the tax is unconstitutional and that its collection would not be permitted in the national custom houses, but beyond that he had nothing to say. This assuredly is not enough. If a tax is illegal as well as onerous, commerce is entitled to executive protection against it. Considerably over three-fourths of the revenue of this country is derived from taxes on commerce, and as every intelligent merchant well knows, these taxes are now so heavy and restrictive that no addition can be made without serious results. Already the costs of living in Brazil are excessively high, and no increase can therefore be made without causing suffering among the people. As their incomes do not increase at the same time, every additional tax on food and clothing—which are the articles most heavily taxed—compels them to restrict consumption, and this fact is proved by the customs returns. Instead of recognizing this natural result, the legislators of the country, whether national or provincial, are continually increasing customs taxation to meet deficiencies of revenue. The one clause of their fiscal creed is: to augment the revenue, increase customs taxation. It is useless perhaps to ask such men to analyze the revenue returns to see what this policy is leading to; they have had all the evidence

before them for years and are yet sublimely insensible of its plainest facts. Of the one admitted fact, however, the unconstitutionality of provincial import taxes, they are no longer ignorant, and the mercantile classes are justified in demanding that the law be enforced and commerce protected from further extortions of this character.

ASIDE from the very pertinent question as to the use made of the proceeds of the "additional 10 per cent." levied for the relief of the provinces, there is one other phase in this incident which ought to receive serious attention from all Brazilians—and that is the concession of more administrative and executive power to the provinces, with a corresponding share in the general revenue of the empire. It is a disgrace to the imperial government that a contrary policy has been continued up to the present time. In a country so large as Brazil it is a physical impossibility that it can be equitably and economically administered from one central point, and yet the attempt goes on from year to year without one single effort toward a change. It is inconceivable that such a political error could have been perpetuated so long. And it has not only been thus perpetuated, but the indications are that it will be years before any really liberal effort will be made to replace it with a system more in harmony with the requirements of the day. Instead of this unclassifiable mixture of mediæval and modern ideas which constitutes the Brazilian political system of to-day and which is an insurmountable obstacle to the permanent development of the country, Brazil needs a simpler form of government by which local affairs will be left to the provinces and municipalities, while those of general import will be left to the unquestioned control of the nation. In attempting to administer everything from the construction of a railway to the granting of a leave of absence to a police officer on the Mato Grosso frontier, the national government has succeeded only in showing its own weakness and inefficiency. Having no rational system to work upon, its action is always tentative and vacillating. Were the country much smaller, the defects of such a system would not be so apparent, but in so vast an empire they are to be seen everywhere. If the minister of finance can not enforce his decision that provincial import duties are unconstitutional, what is the use of his making it and promising that such duties shall not be collected in the national custom houses? If the province of Pernambuco can enforce any tax it pleases, or impose any restriction upon commerce that it sees fit, what is the authority of the national government worth? And where is the merchant to go for protection? He may appeal to the national treasury, it is true; but the delays and costs and annoyances consequent on such an appeal will deter him from such a course, even were he quite sure that a favorable decision could be enforced. It is clear that the best way to meet these difficulties is to grant better local government to the provinces, and to effectively exclude them from affairs of a general character.

THE *Jornal do Commercio* on the 15th has emitted some sensible opinions regarding the railway system of the empire in general, and the tariffs of the Great Western of Brazil in particular. The *Jornal* says: "All progress is up to a certain point disorganizing, for disorganization must precede substitution. When however a primitive organization succeeds in maintaining itself for a certain time, there is reason for enquiring as to why this abnormal resistance arises." We agree; and think the reason

is not far to seek. Under the system of guaranteed interest to various railways, these must submit their tariffs to government approval, and the government looking less to the interests of the inhabitants of the zone served by the railway, than to the probability of a call upon the Treasury for a greater or less amount on account of the guarantee, fixes tariffs at such rates that, as has been more than once pointed out, pack-mules and carts can actually compete for traffic with the railways. Certainly no charge can be made against the companies in this case. Their interest is guaranteed under any circumstance and it matters little, in a financial point of view, what their freight tariffs may be. But it is not so with the Treasury; high rates of freight are imposed in an endeavor to decrease the load upon the government coffers, and the result is discontent on the part of the planters, who without investigation claim that the blame is chargeable to the company, whereas in strict justice it is to be laid at the door of the officials who so complacently allowed the various concessions and guarantees. If the farmers and planters wish for lower tariff rates, we venture to say that no company with a guarantee of interest will object, but we are very doubtful whether the administrative authorities would listen to such a demand. Yet this is clearly the duty of the government. When such anomalies exist as we daily see, of maize and other cereals being imported from foreign markets, simply because it is cheaper to import them by sea than over a few hundred kilometres of railway, it seems just about time for some steps to be taken that freight charges may not show such an enormous percentage on the cost and net proceeds of these most indispensable articles. The loss to the Treasury might be considerable at the outset, but the actual saving to the country would undoubtedly serve to offset this within a reasonably short time. To make charges against companies for maintaining high tariffs, when the correction is so clearly in the hands of the government, is absurd, and the writer in the *Jornal* has made a great mistake in placing his blame upon the first. We insist that the companies would readily destroy the competition of pack-mules and carts were they not so heavily handicapped by the authorities, who after granting concessions of every description now endeavor to partly evade the obligations of these at the cost of the smaller farmers; the coffee *fazendeiro* has only to cry out, and he will be promptly attended to.

At first sight the reply of the *Sociedade Central de Imigração* in answer to the dispatch of the directory of the Bank of Brazil relative to the subdivision of plantations which the bank has taken over, and which the president of the bank says may not be subdivided under its by-laws, appears decidedly hardy. It looks like an unwarrantable interference with the working of the first institution of its kind in the empire and should therefore attract little attention from those who are more directly interested in the operations of the bank, while it might give rise to severe criticisms. As one however proceeds to analyze the reply of the *Sociedade* and remembers that, while the bank is a proprietary institution, the corporation has received such favors from government as brings it within the limit of general criticism, the case does not appear so anomalous, and the *Sociedade* seems to represent, not an intrusive and criticizing influence, but rather a power desirous of distinctly specifying what the immigrants, now universally considered necessary to the country, are to receive and how they will be received. The Bank of Brazil cannot subdivide its plantations, because its by-laws forbid this. But cannot these by-laws

be modified to such an extent that this subdivision may become a fact? Whether, as claimed by the *Sociedade*, or as appears from the reply of the president of the bank, the institution possesses many or few plantations, the argument of the *Sociedade* is not met in the reply of the bank. The *Sociedade* asks that such plantations as the bank is managing—be these many or few—should be so subdivided that they would become available for immigration purposes, and to this the bank replies, *Non possumus!* The *Sociedade* claims that in many instances the bankrupt planters are merely overseers for the bank, and in others, the original debtor having disappeared, the plantations are under the control of managers who account directly to the agents of the bank and may thus be also considered as mere overseers of the creditor. This statement may, or may not be proven, but we hardly think the *Sociedade* would have emitted it without some basis for proof. While we have every sympathy for the *Sociedade Central de Imigração* in this question, we must say that we consider their starting point erroneous. The attack on the Bank of Brazil was well planned, but must necessarily fail, for when an institution intrenches itself behind its by-laws, outside criticism is worth less than nothing; the directors are responsible not to the public, nor to the country; they are responsible to their shareholders, and so long as these directors strictly observe the letter of the by-laws, the shareholders have not one word to offer in contradiction to the action of their representatives. No one can be so utterly unobservant that he may not see that the interest of the country, and of the shareholders of the Bank of Brazil, are identical in this particular case. A subdivision of coffee producing plantations would in the first place distribute present mortgages over some ten or fifteen lives in place of the one, as is now the case. The bank would multiply its security upon the very same amount of land as now appears among its assets, and the economy in the matter of managers, agents and representatives, would be reduced to a minimum. The *Sociedade* should therefore have made its appeal not to the directory of the bank, who must observe the by-laws, but to such influential and interested shareholders as could and would bring the matter before a general meeting and thus have the by-laws modified to the end that the plantations might be disposed of in any manner most advantageous to the interests of the shareholders and of the country. We feel persuaded that there is no want of willingness on the part of the directory to aid the immigration movement and the shareholder who proposed a reform of the by-laws would doubtless be assisted to secure this by the directors. We hope the *Sociedade* will proceed to act upon this plan.

The *Jornal do Commercio* of the 18th instant contains an interesting editorial article on the immigration returns at this port during the first six months of the year, by which it appears that the total number of arrivals were 13,036, exclusive of 1,732 calling here on their way to Santos. The number of departures during the same period was 2,675. Of the arrivals only 396 received assistance from the state. So far as comparisons with preceding years can be used, this result is not at all unfavorable, as there have been but three years since 1855 when the total yearly arrivals have exceeded the double of this number. In every other respect, however, it must be considered highly unfavorable. From 1855 to 1884, inclusive, the total number of immigrants arriving at this port was only 477,223, or less than the average annual arrivals in the United States during the last five years.

Taking into consideration the heavy emigration from the over-crowded countries of Europe, the enormous area of unsettled land and the natural advantages which are to be found in this country, it must be confessed that an annual arrival of less than 16,000 immigrants during the last thirty years is very far from satisfactory. Instead of this paltry average Brazil ought to have averaged ten times that number, and instead of possessing here and there a poor, hopeless, half-starved colony the country ought to be full of industrious immigrants. And more than that, instead of remaining aliens to the day of their death, every one of these immigrants ought to be a Brazilian citizen, enjoying every privilege which the native Brazilian enjoys, and feeling that the whole country belongs just as much to him and his children as to those whose parents happened to come out from Portugal a century earlier. It ought to be apparent by this time that there is something radically wrong in the policy pursued toward immigrants. The United States government has never sent out agents, nor made a propaganda, nor offered subsidies for the acquisition of immigrants; all that it did was to open its doors and put foreign-born and native-born citizens on civil and political equality. And then, instead of giving or selling its lands to political parasites or speculators, it wisely reserved them for actual settlers. The immigrant has always been able to find cheap lands on which to settle, and a fairly remunerative market for his products. He has found a liberal school system by which he and his neighbors could give their children a fairly good education; and he has found, also, that the government leaves the question of religion wholly to his own choice. To his great surprise he has found that he and his neighbors are entrusted with the control of nearly all local matters—the schools, roads, taxes for support of same, and even the administration of justice in petty local cases. He helps elect the township justices and constables, who are endowed with necessary powers for the preservation of order. He never sees a soldier unless he goes to some frontier military station, and the nearest approach to a government police official which he ever sees, is the United States marshal, who may be his nearest neighbor and who wears no uniform and has no official authority over himself except in certain specified cases. If he is arrested for any cause he is entitled to an immediate trial, or to an examination which determines whether he shall be held for trial. He can buy and sell land at pleasure, go when and where he pleases, and engage in any occupation. There is nothing forbidden him which his American neighbor enjoys, except the privilege of occupying the chief executive office of the nation. To the average European emigrant these privileges are all the more esteemed, because they are so radically different from what he has been accustomed to in the land of his nativity. Sometimes he abuses them, but generally he makes wise use of them. If, now, Brazil had pursued this same policy, is it not probable that she would have secured very similar results? Is it not certain that her population would have been very much larger and her wealth immeasurably greater? And if so, is it too late to resort to that policy now for the benefit of the future?

The bone industry of the United States is an important one. The four feet of an ordinary ox will make a pint of neat-foot oil. Not a bone of any animal is thrown away. Many cattle skin bones are shipped to Europe for the making of kyle handles, where they bring \$40 per ton. The thigh bones are the most valuable, being worth \$80 per ton for cutting into tooth brush handles. The foreleg bones are worth \$30 per ton, and are made into collar buttons, parasol handles, and jewelry, though sheep's legs are the staple for parasol handles. The water in which the bones are boiled is reduced to glue, the dust which comes from sawing the bones is fed to cattle and poultry, and all bone that cannot be used as noted, or for bone black, used in refining the sugar we eat, are turned into fertilizer and manure to help to enrich the soil. As regards waste, it is the story of the pig. Nothing is lost except the squeal.—*Exchange.*

## IMMIGRATION.

We translate the reply of the *Sociedade Central de Imigração* to the directory of the Bank of Brazil as published by the *Gazeta de Notícias*.

In the name of the directory, I commence by acknowledging the politeness of the ready reply your Ex. after consulting the illustrious (*ilustre*) directory of the bank was good enough to send me on July 27th who, by which an opening is furnished for clearly understanding the ideas of this society, and to show up the difficulties with which the first banking establishment of Brazil is contending with, in its sincere desires to aid the solution of the serious problem of the transformation of labour in this Empire.

Y. Ex. will allow me (before entering upon the subject matter) to submit, that only individual responsibilities are effective, and therefore whoever occupies the eminent position of president of the Bank of Brazil may enjoy the enviable glory of having assisted, or even initiated, a great economic and social reform; but following this same hypothesis is the case of pronounced disregard, like wantonness, or indifference, no light charge may be alleged against him.

At the present moment, when the immigration question [if for our punishment it seems of little interest to the high powers of the State] impetively calls the attention of observers and assumes a position of greater importance than the slavery question, to assist an evolution of native agriculture and a transformation of the *latifundias* and *sesmarias* into small farms should to a great extent pertain to the Bank of Brazil, which, in fact, has become the real arbiter of public and private finances in this country. It is in reality the true owner of the best plantations in the provinces of Rio de Janeiro, Minas Geraes, S. Paulo and Espírito Santo, served by a railway system of a gauge wider than that of the richest lines in France, England or the United States.

The bankrupt debtors are only tolerated representatives of the bank, in its recognized, and, up to a certain point, obligatory concessions to the large planters.

On some plantations, if not on many, the owners who mortgaged their lands have disappeared, and these have been substituted by agents who account directly to the delegates of the bank and may be considered mere overseers of bands of slaves.

Even along the line of the D. Pedro II railway these plantations are not a few, and upon these unmistakable signs of great backwardness, of the most lamentable routine and of radical *obscurantismo* are plainly visible, just as if they were still the property of mined planters, strangers to all idea of progress and delivered up body and soul to despondency and to despair.

Always the same desolate prospect that so impresses and sabbatizes a foreign traveller, and which cause him the same sensations, that very naturally the directors of the bank feel when visiting these wretched agricultural establishments.

Millions and millions of square metres of excellent land abandoned, without cultivation, without use, and in one corner of the immense plantation, as the symbol of backwardness and inertness, an old, almost ruined house, surrounded by barracks (*casarões*) in which at night are locked up hundreds and hundreds of negro slaves, employed in the cultivation of the deteriorated coffee orchards! Let Y. Ex. compare one of these plantations, the exclusive property of the Bank of Brazil, with any insignificant little nucleus of German or Italian immigrants, samples of which are already furnished by some of our provinces. It is a vivid antithesis, of contentment, prosperity, individual initiative, of diverse crops, of new industries, of favorable promise and of hope in the future. It is the beginning of the production of silk, of wine, of dairy produce, of abundant cereal crops, wheat, rye, barley, hops, hay and forage, of a thousand things in fact, whereas the *latifundia* and slavery will not extend beyond coffee, and sugar. And this too even when for the demand at present, there is almost too much coffee, and sugar is subject to terrible fluctuations. And this too when this immense Empire and its capital import from the United States and the Old World food products, from rice and maize up to beef, and its markets even receive potatoes from New Zealand!

This is the reason that the *Sociedade Central de Imigração* has always observed with pain the valuable and premature efforts, which might be very much better utilized, of the *Centro da Lavourea e do Commercio* in opening new sources for the consumption of coffee all over the world, when for the real and the great future of Brazil the problem is another, incomparably larger and less restricted.

In fact, if public affairs are to follow the natural and rigorous path which fortunately they have taken, the *Centro da Lavourea e do Commercio* will become compromised with its new customers, which it has solicited and continues to solicit with so much anxiety, for it may become utterly impossible to meet the engagements entered into, and the circle of which it still endeavours to amplify.

It is not sufficient to endeavour to continue and develop the system of agriculture and the economic processes as followed hitherto; it is necessary to rent of a very different thing, and to meet a most necessary general reform. And this can not be done without the assistance of the European immigrant.

Of what use are nearly all our railways, save to accumulate deficits upon deficits?

The national work-shops possess a sufficiency of tools, what is wanted are workmen.

And of what use are these powerful auxiliaries of human activity without the brains and the arms to use them?

And further, it is impossible to bring about the proper moral evolution of the freedman, of the *agregado*, of the *camarada*, of the *capanga*, of the rough (*capanga*), of the peasant (*setevingo*) and of the rowly (*capanga*) into independent, free and laborious workmen without the lessons furnished by example, without the practical lessons furnished by the most advanced peoples of Europe, rich in invention, and anxious to obtain the quiet enjoyment of such conveniences as can be obtained in the social life of America by their daily exertions and by the understanding of duties and of rights.

The great question is—example. And in this sphere the Bank of Brazil can assume an eminent position and one of the greatest patriotic importance. Let the illustrious directory ask the shareholders for the necessary authority, which will assuredly be fully conceded, and thus the principal objection offered in Y. Ex.'s dispatch of 27th July will be overcome, and let it experiment with the organization of colonial nuclei formed by immigrants and freedmen upon any one of its numerous plantations.

There will be but a simple change in the administration. Instead of a slave overseer; capable, intelligent managers, accustomed to deal with worthy men; divide among immigrants the land, of which they will become the owners at the expiration of a fixed period and upon payment of all debts contracted; grant them at first some protection, without endeavoring to make *wards* of them, which by an error of government has cost so much to the public coffers, and afterwards it will be seen whether these lots of land, hitherto worthless and the source of unproductive expenses, are not transformed into valuable properties.

The question is not the possession of many plantations in these conditions, as Y. Ex. points out; only one would suffice for an experiment, which at the utmost would only cost the bank some tens of *contos de reis*. And even in the case of failure, which is certainly not to be expected, a most precious seed would have been planted. The bank does not wish to assume such an initiative? Notwithstanding the great energy and wisdom of its active directory does it fear practical obstacles? Very good! let it foment among the planters who are its heavy debtors experiments of this order. Publish that it will assist them in all manners. Stimulate the appearance of individual efforts, and oblige itself to assist all those, that it judges of sufficient ability and circumspection for such efforts.

Yet another great reason for action. All that might be disbursed in this order of facts, Y. Ex. readily understands, through your very great intelligence in matters financial and scientific, would sooner or later be recompensed, nor could it ever be considered a totally useless loss, irremediable and availing no one, as happens with some speculative (*alcatória*) operations, into which the best and most prudently managed banks are at times drawn, and the consequences of which are of difficult appreciation or analysis even by those who are in intimate contact with the mechanism and most private operations of these institutions.

Asking pardon for so long a dispatch, I renew, etc.,

ALFREDO D'ESCRAGNOLLE TAUNAY.

Vice-President.

## PROVINCE OF MINAS GERAES.

The president of the province opened the Assembly on the 3rd inst. and referring to the financial position says, that whereas the revenue of 1879-80 was only 2,524,325\$875 it increased to 3,264,151\$078 collected in 1884-85 up to date, and might be estimated at 3,550,000\$, an increase of 40 per cent. In five years. In 1883-84 the revenue, estimated at 3,048,940\$, only produced 3,000,798\$446, and expenses, estimated at 3,052,486\$, were 3,510,214\$057, distributed as follows:

Ordinary.....	3,115,566\$600
Payments authorized in previous	
and paid in this fiscal year.....	80,946 950
Interest and guarantees to railways, met by credit operations..	313,700 507
	3,510,214\$057

The net deficit of ordinary expenses over revenue was reduced by sundry items to 67,882\$719, which passes to 1884-85. Receipts from credit operations were 399,000\$ and 62,046\$287 was

brought from the preceding year; total 461,046\$287. Of this, 313,700\$507 was disbursed leaving 147,345\$780 to carry forward.

The budget estimates for 1886-87 calculate receipts at 3,317,240\$.

The funded debt on June 11th 1884 was 3,435,000\$ nominal, or 3,351,054\$500 real, at present it amounts to 3,950,000\$.

For the period from June 11th, to date, 509 bonds of 1,000\$ were issued at par and 6 bonds at 102 1/2%. The payments made have been:

Kilometric subventions to railways	2,781,582\$233
Interest guarantees	989,448 874
Cost of issuing bonds	14,900 821
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,785,931\$928</b>

The bonds bearing 6 per cent. interest and the capital being 3,950,000\$, the annual charge is 237,000\$ at present, but this will be greatly increased by late concessions to central factories and railways; principally by that to the Leopoldina railway, which has a 7 per cent. guarantee on 12,200,000\$ for extensions from S. Gerardo to Itabira on the trunk line, on the Alto Marinhô branch, and on the União Mineira branch.

The floating debt is reduced to 133,333\$334.

#### RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

From the Buenos Aires Herald, August 8.

—The Rosario custom house collected during July 229,496 m/n.

—4,000,000 kilos of wheat were exported from Rosario during the month of July.

—18,627 bags of sugar arrived at Rosario from Tucuman during the month of July.

—The Montevideo custom house receipts during the month of July amounted to \$6,412,000.

—The Montevideo port authorities have resolved to increase the quarantine on vessels from Spanish ports to eight days. They are talking of closing the port to all arrivals from Spain.

—The national board of health has resolved to close the ports against all vessels coming from Spanish ports or from the French Mediterranean ports.

—One of Lamport and Holt's steamers will leave Liverpool in a few days for Bahia Blanca direct. This steamer will inaugurate a regular service from England to this port.

—The Buenos Aires custom house receipts on the 31st July were 509,889.08 m/n, making a total for that month of \$2,078,177.22, or total since the 1st of January of \$14,790,521.63 m/n.

—On the 2nd inst., the steamer *J. R. Sur*, belonging to the La Platense line, on her way from Rosario to this port with a cargo of sugar and railway sleepers, was run into and sunk by the Oriental steamer *Tobias*, from Montevideo to Assunção. The *Tobias* received damages to the value of \$4750 m/n.

—In the month of July, 32 ocean steamers arrived in this port, 25 of which brought 170 passengers and 2803 immigrants. From Montevideo there arrived 809 passenger and 1103 immigrants, making a total of 979 passengers and 4056 immigrants.

—Altogether, the outlook of affairs, political, commercial and social, is extremely gloomy just now, though it has been slightly relieved by the announcement, made yesterday, that Sr. Malero has made all the necessary arrangements for the commencement, at the appointed time, of the works for the construction of the port of Buenos Aires.

—The minister of finance will propose to Congress, in order to meet the difficulty caused by the rejection of the loan, that the National Bank shall be authorized to increase its note circulation; that a portion, probably 15 or 20 per cent. of the custom house duties, shall be payable in gold, and that the floating debt, which amounts to more than \$50,000,000, shall be consolidated.

—During the month of July, there were 856 deaths in the city, 338 burials taking place in the Recoleta and 518 in the Chacarita cemetery. More than one-fourth of the deaths were caused by diseases of the respiratory organs; no less than 101 occurred from small-pox, 14 from cancer, 25 from heart disease, 2 from hydrophobia; 45 children were born dead. The average rate of mortality exceeded the high average of the first six months of this year.

—The following table will show the killings in the saladeros compared with the last year:

	1885	1884
Buenos Aires	245,500	88,700
Los Rios	754,600	736,100
Montevideo	256,500	311,500
Rio Grande	385,000	345,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,642,700</b>	<b>1,511,300</b>

—This closing of the ports is the first sign of our annual cholera scare, which has commenced earlier in the season than usual. Certainly, if such a precautionary measure were of any practical benefit we should be wise in adopting it, for we are in the same state of unpreparedness as last year for preventing any epidemic. The city is still unprepared, the lodging-houses are still overcrowded and the supply of water is still deficient.

—The revenue from customs' duties has recently fallen off, owing, no doubt, to the decree which aided fifteen per cent. to the duties. We may anticipate that this falling off will now become more marked, especially as, in consequence of the outbreak of cholera in Spain and the south of France, it has been determined to close the ports against all vessels coming from Spain or from the Mediterranean ports of France.

—During the first half of this year there were 6,098 children baptized in this city, the sexes being nearly equally divided. Of those, only 970 were the children of Argentine parents; 926 had foreign fathers and Argentine mothers, and 3,786 were the children of foreigners. During the same period there were 1,574 marriages, of which 1,492 were between Catholics. The deaths were 4,498, which shows a very high rate of mortality.

—It was resolved in a council of ministers, on Saturday, to reject the clause in the contract with the London syndicate of bankers, stipulating that the custom house revenue should be mortgaged to secure the loan of which the service was to be made by the National Bank. It is stated that the bankers would not complete the contract without the stipulation mentioned. It is reported that there will be a large issue of paper money, and this has caused a considerable rise in the premium on gold.

From the Buenos Aires Standard, July 28

—Statement showing the Foreign and Home Debt of the Argentine government up to the 30th ult.:

FOREIGN DEBT:	AMOUNT.	AUTHORIZED.	BALANCE IN.
	£	£	\$ m/n.
English, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 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2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 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